

Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, August 7, 1834, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Private.

Hermitage, August 7, 1834.

My dear sir, Since closing my letter to Major Lewis this morning I have recd. yours of the 24th ult.

I arrived here on the evening of the 5th instant worn down with ill health, bad roads and heat of weather, and my horses worn down, scarcely able to get into Port. I have had no rest yet, yesterday a committee from Nashville waited upon me to present the resolutions of a large meeting, and to invite me to partake of a dinner. To this I was compelled to yield, as I was confidentially advised it was the sincere wishes of all, that an opportunity might be given to promulgate the sentiments of the people (by toasts) around the board—next wednesday I am to meet them. I have been labouring from the moment of my arrival opening and reading letters, and now, have not got half through, and at present I have but a moment for an acknowledgement of your letter.

I have complied with yours and Mrs. B. request. I have kissed my pet for you both, presented your salutations to Sarah and Andrew who requests me in the kindest manner to reciprocate them. I found all my family well, a few of my negroes excepted, little Rachel as sprightly as a little fairy and as wild as a little partridge. I brought her a little doll which was the only thing that induced her to come to me. She is not as heavy as the son, who is

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a very large fat boy well fed by the spoon as well as the breast—sarah has just recovered her health: is still a little thin—so much for domestic affairs.

now a moment to the political part of your letter. The Governor of Michigan is a puzzling matter—Southerland, Gilpin, Cameron, Eaton and Col Mack, and Charles Biddle with many others—Gilpin by Taney, Forsythe, Kendall etc., etc., etc., on the ground of his being made the victim of the Bank etc., etc., etc. I will decide on this matter with great deliberation and perhaps not before my return to Washington. I have duly noted the other matter contained in your letter and will only here remark that you are at liberty to use the report to me by the secretary of the senate and Clerk of the House as the basis of the your [sic] remarks you may make on the extravagance and waste of the public treasure in printing, but as I intend to bring this to the view of the nation in my next annual Message you are not to publish them as official documents, but if necessary you can say you have been permitted to see them and vouch for the correctness of your statement.

I have always given the Editor of the ministerial paper a view of the Bank reports, they are not confidential, they are for the information of the Government and the people, it shews the general state of the Bank and nothing more, a knowledge of which belongs to the people.